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layer containing the rare earth metals and the 3d transition metals as the main component and an alloy film containing Co and Cr as a main component.

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6. (Amended) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said second layer consists of Co and Cr.

Please add the following new claims to the application:

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--9. The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic layer is the main recording layer of said recording medium.

10. The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic layer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of Co-Cr-Ta, Co-Cr-Pt, Co-Cr-Pt-Ta and Co-Cr-Pt-B.

11. The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said first layer is a thermal-stabilizing layer of the recording medium.

12. The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said second layer is provided on the surface of the first layer.

13. The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising a protective and lubricant layer on the second layer.

14. The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 13,

wherein said protective and lubricant layer includes carbon, and the second layer suppresses reaction of the carbon.

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15. The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said protective and lubricant layer, which includes carbon, is made of a material selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicon carbide and boron carbide.--

